

DFS QUARTERLY

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Central Sprinkler Recalls 35 Million Sprinkler Heads

On July 19, 2001 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Central Sprinkler Company, an affiliate of Tyco Fire Products LP, of Lansdale, PA, announced a voluntary recall program for 35 million sprinkler heads that have rubber O-ring seals. The company will provide free parts and labor to replace certain models of Central, Gem and Star sprinkler heads by arranging for the installation using either its own central field service crew or by contracting with professional sprinkler contractors.

In July, State Fire Marshal Coan notified all Massachusetts fire depart-



ments about the recall and the voluntary replacement project. He asked for the assistance of every fire chief in identifying all locations in which the recalled sprinkler heads have been installed, and to supply that information to the Office of the State Fire Marshal; in notifying all property owners with these identified sprinklers of this recall; directing the removal and replacement of these devices pursuant to the authority of 527 CMR 1.06 (1)(b); and seeking the cooperation of local building officials in this determination and notification process. The packet also contained the July 19, 2001 letter from the CPSC; the Central Sprinkler Recall Packet and a list of affected sprinkler heads.

"It is important that the public trust in fire sprinklers be maintained. Sprinklers have a 100+ year record of reliability and effectiveness. There has never been a multiple loss of life by fire in a properly sprinkled building. Our collective efforts are directed towards maintaining the public's ability to have

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From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

Perlov Resigns

This summer Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov announced that she will be leaving Massachusetts to become Chief of Police in Raleigh, North Carolina. As secretary, she worked hard to understand and advocate for the needs of the fire service as well as the other agencies under her command. Policing has always been in her blood and the citizens of Raleigh will be fortunate to have her. The fire chief will be fortunate to have a partner who understands and appreciates the fire service as well as Jane Perlov does. We look forward to working Jim Jajuga whom the Governor has announced she will appoint to replace Perlov.

Hernandez Appointed Undersecretary

Another change at the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS) is the appointment of Rafael P. Hernandez as Undersecretary. He will oversee fire and law enforcement programs and policy. Mr. Hernandez was the Chelsea Police Chief for the past three years. We were pleased to welcome him recently to the DFS campus.

Governor's Budget Initiatives

Governor Swift submitted a capital bill to the Legislature which contains \$25 million for the DFS build-out. It has received initial approval from

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New Training E-mail Service

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy is pleased to announce that a new one-way e-mail service has been established to augment other means of training notifications. This new service is designed to bring timely information direct to your home or office computer. It will provide information on course openings, training bulletins, pilot presentations, new training opportunities, National Fire Academy offerings, course postponements and cancellations. Be informed – subscribe today by sending a blank e-mail to: joindfs_training@listserv.state.ma.us If you have questions or experience difficulty accessing this new service, e-mail Director Bill Hollick at William.Hollick@state.ma.us or call (978) 567-3114. ♦

From the Fire Marshal

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the House Committee on Long-Term Capital Debt and has been forwarded to the House Ways and Means Committee. The Governor also submitted a proposal for a 5-year capital equipment replacement program to upgrade DFS equipment and vehicles at \$1.5 million per year for a total of \$7.5 million. She also requested re-authorization of the \$5 million Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

FY '02 S.A.F.E. Grants

Two hundred and forty-four fire departments submitted applications for FY '02 S.A.F.E. grants. These grants are being reviewed by the S.A.F.E. Advisory Board and we plan on meeting our goal of awarding grants by Fire Prevention Week in October.

Federal Funding

Many Massachusetts fire departments have been recipients of grants from the U.S. Fire Administration under the Assistance to Firefighters Program. Congratulations to the following fire departments:

5th Round

Boston Fire Dept., Boston, Mass.; \$63,840 for firefighting equipment

Hopedale Fire dept., Hopedale, Mass.; \$19,800 for wellness and fitness

Sterling Fire Dept., Sterling, Mass.; \$13,428 for personal protective equipment

West Barnstable Fire Dept., West Barnstable, Mass.; \$6,750 for personal protective equipment

4th Round

Lowell Fire Dept., Lowell, Mass.; \$60,222 for wellness and fitness

Westfield Fire Dept., Westfield, Mass.; \$225,000 for fire prevention

Montague Center Fire District, Montague, Mass.; \$61,813 for personal protective equipment

3rd Round

Town of Pelham Fire Dept., Amherst, Mass.; \$165,651 for vehicles

Ashburnham Fire Dept., Ashburnham, Mass.; \$46,800 for vehicles

North Andover Fire Dept., North Andover, Mass.; \$134,100 for vehicles

Westwood Fire Dept., Westwood, Mass.; \$69,300 for vehicles

1st Round

Belchertown Fire Department, Belchertown, Mass.; \$32,931 for training

Danvers Fire Department, Danvers, Mass.; \$13,442 for training.

Upcoming Events

There are several major events coming up this fall.

The **Brian Broderick Family Fire Safety Day** at Houghton's Pond on Saturday, September 15, 2001, 11-4.

This event is an opportunity for community education about the role of the fire service, the different services we provide and most importantly, to showcase the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program. I hope to see many fire departments and S.A.F.E.rs there.

2001: A S.A.F.E. Odyssey – the 7th annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will take place September 27-28, 2001 in Westford. The Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award will be presented on September 27 (nominations are due September 6.) Mesa Arizona Fire Chief Dennis Compton will be the keynote speaker on September 28. There will be two days of workshops for both the new and the experienced fire and life safety educator.

Planning for the annual **Firefighter of the Year Award** ceremony is underway. It will be held this fall with the final date and location to be firmed up shortly. The Governor presents these awards recognizing the heroism and

bravery of outstanding members of the Massachusetts fire service.

State law has established the second Monday in December as **Candle Safety Day**. This year it will be December 10. The Department of Fire Services and local fire departments are pushing a major consumer education project this year around the safe use of candles. This includes promoting the Candle Circle of Safety logo, partnering with local candle retailers and manufacturers, the National Candle Association and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. ♦

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs Conference

The Massachusetts Statewide Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs will be holding its annual Juvenile Firesetting Conference: *Children and Fire VIII, Exploring the Global Perspectives of Intervention* from November 11-14, 2001. This will be a gathering of over 500 clinicians, social workers, forensic and juvenile justice professionals, fire and police officials, and community leaders. Convening at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham, MA, this conference will bring together attendees from all over the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, to listen to international experts, exchange ideas, learn best practices, and network with colleagues. The training will include, but not be limited to, search warrants, interviewing juveniles, rules governing confidentiality, and other legal issues. The Coalition publishes a newsletter, *The Strike Zone*, on a quarterly basis, which includes updates on their efforts to establish best practice standards for the assessment and treatment for juvenile firesetting within a multi-disciplinary context. Interested parties should contact Conference Coordinator Anthony Russo at (508) 636-9149 or e-mail at ilp@tiac.net or facsimile (508) 636-6063 ♦

Anhydrous Ammonia Thefts for Illegal Drug Labs

On August 28, 2001, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan sent an advisory to all heads of fire departments about anhydrous ammonia thefts and propane cylinder explosions. The text of that advisory follows.

The following information was compiled from safety alerts issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Propane Gas Association regarding the theft of anhydrous ammonia for use in illegal drug manufacturing processes and the storage and transportation of stolen anhydrous ammonia in propane tanks.

PROBLEM

Anhydrous ammonia is used as an agricultural fertilizer and industrial refrigerant. The substance is stored and used at agricultural retailers and facilities with ammonia refrigeration systems. Anhydrous ammonia also is a key ingredient in the illegal production of methamphetamines. Illegal drug makers often steal anhydrous ammonia from areas where it is stored and used. Anhydrous ammonia is stored as a liquid under pressure, however, it becomes a toxic gas when released to the environment. Anhydrous ammonia can be harmful to individuals who come into contact with it or inhale airborne concentrations of the gas. When stolen, the toxic gas can be unintentionally released, causing injuries to emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, the public, and the criminals themselves.

ACCIDENTS

A number of anhydrous ammonia thefts have resulted in accidental chemical releases from agricultural retailers and facilities with ammonia refrigeration systems. The accidents have occurred when valves were left open as anhydrous ammonia was siphoned off; locks were sawn off or

broken; anhydrous ammonia was transferred inappropriately into makeshift containers such as propane tanks used on barbecue grills; plugs were removed from anhydrous ammonia lines at refrigeration facilities; or the wrong hoses and/or fittings were attached to storage containers, causing leaks and spills that would otherwise not have occurred. Propane cylinders are being used to store and transport stolen anhydrous ammonia used in the manufacturing of methamphetamines. This drug is commonly referred to as "crank". These cylinders have been found in many states at cylinder exchange and refilling locations as well as in hotel rooms and mobile laboratories, where the manufacturing of this illegal substance takes place.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Anhydrous ammonia can be found in the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook under Number 125. The UN Number for anhydrous ammonia is 1005 and is placarded Class 2.2, Nonflammable gas. Anhydrous ammonia corrodes brass valving turning the brass to a blue/green color.* When inside inappropriate pressure cylinders (e.g. propane cylinders), the pungent odor of ammonia on or near the cylinder is also an indication. If you suspect that a propane cylinder contains or has contained anhydrous ammonia, exercise extreme caution and restrict access to the area. Anhydrous ammonia attacks brass valving from the inside out. In this situation, it is difficult to assess the integrity of valving from outside physical appearances. Extreme caution should be used when handling inappropriate containers storing anhydrous ammonia. Brass valving that appeared to be physically intact from outside appearance has been known to break off in the hands of responders creating an uncontrolled release from

the container. It can be dangerous to move the cylinder due to the unknown integrity of the cylinder's service valve. If you determine that it must be moved, keep in mind that hazards due to valve expulsion can be reduced by pointing the end of the container in which the valve is placed away from yourself and others in the safest possible direction. Also, these containers should not be transported in the trunks of cars or other vehicles where the container and the occupant are in the same compartment. Furthermore, responders should take care in selecting the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) level. Due to anhydrous ammonia's low boiling point, affinity for water (including perspiration), and inhalation hazard, responders can be injured if not wearing proper PPE. Structural firefighter protective clothing may not provide adequate protection during an anhydrous ammonia release. The use of self-contained positive-pressure breathing apparatus is appropriate during a response to an anhydrous ammonia release. In addition to other appropriate PPE, in some cases it may be necessary to wear cryogenic gloves with a moisture barrier to protect against freezing and/or chemical burns. If you suspect that you have encountered a propane cylinder that contains or has contained anhydrous ammonia, immediately contact your District Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team and/or the nearest office of the United States Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

*Note: Sherwood valves contain a green coated valve stem. Additionally, a green thread sealing compound is used on some valves. These valves should not be confused with those that have been exposed to anhydrous ammonia . ♦

Industrial Training Group

The Industrial Training Group is offering six open enrollment seminars for this fiscal year. These seminars are generally attended by private sector industrial employees who pay a fee. If there are companies in your community whose safety personnel might benefit from this training, be sure to let them know about these upcoming trainings. Any firefighter in the Commonwealth may also attend free of charge. The dates, times, and subjects are the following:

September 20, 2001
Incipient Fire Safety Seminar
0900-1200

October 10, 2001
Incident Command for Industry
0900-1600

November 29, 2001
Sprinkler Systems
0900-1200

March 14, 2002
Hazardous Waste Operations
(HazWoper) Refresher
0800-1700

April 17, 2002
Industrial Anti-Terrorism Seminar
0900-1200

May 15, 2000
Incipient Fire safety Seminar
0900-1200

For more information or to be added to our mailing list call 978-567-3206 or 3208; or email any of us:
Paul.Vincequere@state.ma.us,
Dick.Erban@state.ma.us,
Donna.Romano@state.ma.us,
Robert.Zalewski@state.ma.us.

Our website is <http://www.state.ma.us/dfs/mfa/indust.htm>, and there are direct email links from that page. ♦

Train-the-Trainer Opportunities

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy is currently accepting instructor's requests to be trained as trainers for several courses. If you are interested in becoming a trainer,

please e-mail Bob Colameta at bob@dfsinstructor.com, indicating your interests and your availability to work day programs, night programs, and/or weekend programs.

Train the Trainer #1

We are scheduling many offerings throughout the state.

Emergency Vehicle Driver Awareness – BASIC

Dates: Friday, September 21, 2001 (one day only)

Times: 0900 to 1600 hrs.

Location: DFS- Stow

This program serves dual purposes. First, it can be taken by any department and is a very interactive, informative and a "make you think" program. It does not involve actual driving, which comes in the advanced program.

This BASIC curriculum is a prerequisite for any instructor who wants to participate in the ADVANCED EVO Train the Trainer.

Train the Trainer #2

There are 36 offerings scheduled across the state.

Emergency Vehicle Driver Operator – ADVANCED

Dates – Friday September 28, 2001 AND Saturday September 29, 2001 (both days are required)

Times: 0830 – 1600

Location - Stow

You cannot participate in this advanced program as a qualified MFA instructor without first completing the basic program.

Train the Trainer #3

This is a mobile unit and will travel across the state. There is a potential for many offerings.

Flashover Simulator Train the Trainer

Date – Thursday October 11, 2001

Time – 0800-1600 (one day only)

Location : DFS - Stow

Train the Trainer #4

We currently have two offerings booked in western MA.

Instructional Techniques for the Company Officer

Dates: Monday, September 17, 2001 OR Tuesday, October 2, 2001 (one of these dates is all you need to attend)

Location: DFS - Stow

This is to teach the 12- hour Basic Instructional techniques

School Chemical Safety Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering a new grant program to set up sustainable chemical management systems in public schools. Many schools have stockpiles of hazardous chemicals that will no longer be used and pose risk to the health and safety of students and school personnel. These stockpiles are typically the result of unmonitored purchasing of chemicals with inadequate attention to management of unused portions and waste products. Many schools that have performed chemical clean-outs in the past have found themselves with new chemical stockpiles within a few years when an effective chemical management plan was not implemented.

The goals of this new grant program are to reduce the purchasing of unnecessary chemicals, safely manage the chemicals necessary for classroom

instruction and management of the physical plant, and avoid future stockpiling. Schools selected for this grant will receive professional hazardous waste management services to perform the chemical inventory, training on chemical hazard awareness and how to establish and implement a chemical management plan. They will also be given up to \$20,000 per district in clean-out expenses for unnecessary chemicals.

Who Is Eligible

Individual middle, high schools, or school districts are eligible for this grant. Applications must be submitted by a municipality on behalf of their school district or individual school (s).

Schools selected for this grant must commit to:

Establishing and implementing a chemical management plan;

Developing an environmental health and safety team to implement the project;

An annual chemical storage and safety check by the local fire department

Sending a minimum of three officials to a day-long training or two half-day trainings on school chemical management;

Submitting a summary report to DEP on the actions taken to implement a chemical management plan.

This program is offered through the Municipal Recycling Grant Program. Applications have been sent to chief elected officials and "recycling contacts" of every municipality in the state. If you are interested in applying, please contact that person or Lori Segall from the DEP at (617) 2922-5704. ♦

Regulation Change on LP-Gas Cylinders Will Affect Consumers Next April

On April 2, 2002, Section 2-3.15 of NFPA 58-1998 will prohibit the refilling of any LP-gas container with a capacity of between 4 pounds and 40 pounds that is not equipped with an Overfill Prevention Device (OPD).

NFPA 58-1998 has been adopted by reference by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (527 CMR 6.07(1)). The only exceptions to this regulation are forklift truck cylinders and welding/cutting gas cylinders. All cylinders manufactured or re-qualified after March 31, 1998 have been required to be OPD equipped.

A number of municipalities and LP-gas distributors already accept out of date cylinders for recycling, usually for a small fee.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3300

or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181. ♦

Fire Marshal Works to Educate Consumers on New Regulation

Before putting your LP-gas tank away for the season, take a moment to see if it is going to meet new requirements that take effect next April, just about the time you'll be thinking about taking the cover off your grill for next summer.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Consumer Affairs Director Jennifer Carey want to alert consumers that on April 2, 2002 a new regulation on LP-gas cylinders will take effect which requires all tanks to have an overfill-protection device. All

propane cylinders between 4 and 40 pounds, such as those used for backyard barbecue grills, will have to have an overfill protection device in order to be refilled. "Overfill protection devices will make using propane significantly safer," said State Fire Marshal Coan.

"Propane expands when heated, by a hot summer day for example. If a tank has been overfilled, there won't be enough space inside the tank when the propane expands and ignitable vapors will leak out to your backyard or shed or inside your car when transporting it. These vapors are heavier than air and sink to the ground and hang around.



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Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The time frame for this report covers events during late 2000 and early 2001. The

status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding reinstatement. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding

the status of any license or certificate please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Name	License #	Action	Effective Date
Blasting Licenses			
Vernon DeMoranville	BL 002550	Suspended pending retest	
Ray Lizotte	BL 003943	Revoked	
Kevin MacDonald	BL 003946	Suspended five years	Effective 4/9/01
Larry Laford	BL 003261	Suspension served - License reinstated	
Patrick O'Conner	BL 003496	Suspended 2 years	Effective 12/14/00
Explosives User's Certificates			
Exquisite Craft Development Corp.	EU 329	Suspended five years	Effective 4/9/01
Granite Rock Drilling and Blasting	EU 213	Revoked	
Hemphill Drilling & Blasting	EU 140	Suspended six months	Effective 6/15/01
Fireworks User's Certificates			
Alonzo Fireworks Display	FU 1008	Suspended ten months	Effective 9/1/01

Maritime Programs

The Maritime Programs office at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has secured United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) approval for a 40-hour basic and advanced firefighting program. This is our third U.S.C.G. approval in two years and will allow the maritime office to train Massachusetts maritime cadets and merchant seaman to the highest level in firefighting required to sit for U.S.C.G. licenses. Over the last year, the office has trained 460 mariners in the basic or the advanced program, assuring the public's and the mariners' safety. ♦

Code Compliance News

Owner's Jaguar Impounded to Cover Clean-Up Costs

On July 2, 2001, Hampden Superior Court Judge Constance M. Sweeney found a Holyoke company, Clearwater Fibers, Inc. in contempt of court for failing to correct ongoing fire code violations. The company had failed to take corrective measures within four months of the original July, 2000 court order. This ruling permits Holyoke City officials to padlock the company and to

secure trailers on site containing materials used by the paper-converting company.

Despite continued promises to clean up large amounts of flammable materials and keep exit doors unlocked from the inside, the company was not given any further time to be brought into compliance. The Court ordered Clearwater President Jerry L. Jones' Jaguar be impounded in the event that the City must pay for the site cleanup. ♦



Regional Task Force Catches Serial Arsonist

Troopers assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal arrested a suspect on three unsolved arson cases on July 5, 2001. The damage to the three structures is in excess of \$1.5 million. The suspect had a long firesetting history and was known to troopers in the Fire Investigation Unit. He had been previously convicted of arson in 1998. Sgt. Robert Bachelder, and Troopers Paul Zipper, Paul Horgan, Brandon Arakelian and Peter Cummings organized an arson task force in an effort to catch this Middlesex County arsonist. The task force included members of the Billerica, Tewksbury, Burlington, Chelmsford, Bedford, Hanscom Air Force Base fire and police departments as well as members of the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, the Mass. State Police Criminal Information Section, and the State-Wide Coalition of Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Programs who helped investigators profile the suspect.

Alert Tewksbury Officer Generates Lead

The regional task force got a break in the case when the suspect's license plate was recorded at the scene of a Tewksbury State Hospital fire on July 3, 2001. A few minutes before the fire occurred, a Tewksbury police officer observed an unoccupied vehicle parked in a field near the abandoned state hospital home. The vehicle, which was located within 200 feet of the structure that burned, was registered to the suspect. It is this kind of teamwork that solves cases.

On Thursday, July 5, 2001, investigators picked up the suspect at his house and interviewed him. Within minutes, the suspect admitted to setting the Tewksbury fire and then to setting two

other fires within the past five weeks. He said the reason for the Tewksbury fire was "stress at work." He then admitted to setting a fire in a building under construction on Allen Road in Billerica on June 27, 2001. After lighting the Billerica fire, the suspect reported it from the Exxon Station on Route 3A. He also admitted to setting a fire in Bedford in a large building also under construction on May 31. The arsonist used a lighter and ordinary combustibles found at the fire scenes to start his fires.

The suspect was arrested and charged with three counts of Chapter 266-2 (arson of a building) and breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony (Chapter 266-18).

The suspect is currently being held without bail as a result of a dangerousness hearing. Since his arrest, investigators have been putting together a firesetting history on the suspect. They have been able to charge the suspect with two more fires and are currently following up on hundreds of unsolved fires that occurred in areas the suspect would have frequented during the last several years.

Homeless Man Sets July 4th Fire

On July 4th, the North Team responded to the scene of a fire at 7 Central St., Peabody to assist the Peabody Fire Department's investigators. The fire occurred in a 3-story, 12-unit, occupied apartment house with a restaurant on the ground floor. The fire originated in a second floor apartment and was determined to be intentionally set with four separate and distinct points of origin.

As a result of an intensive criminal investigation conducted by the State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Peabody Fire Investigation Unit, a 29-year old

homeless man was picked up and brought in for questioning. The man admitted that he broke in and set fire to the apartment in retaliation for an argument that he had earlier in the day with a woman who lived in the apartment where the fire started. He was arrested and charged with arson of a dwelling, breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony, and burning personal property.

Peabody Police Sergeant Charles Werner, Peabody Patrolman Steve Molk and Peabody Fire Inspector Frank D'Amico worked along with Tprs. Horgan and Zipper to solve this case. This is another excellent example of how successful the team concept of fire investigation is in solving cases.

Worcester Man Used Arson as Domestic Violence

John Rolfe got a six-year sentence at MCI Cedar Junction for setting fire to the bed he shared his with his girlfriend on February 15, 2001. After a night of heavy drinking and threats, the girlfriend left the apartment and sought a restraining order against Mr. Rolfe from Worcester Police. When she returned to her apartment, she found the bed in flames. Mr. Rolfe admitted to police that he set the fire by placing a paper bag on the mattress. The fire extended to the walls of the apartment before being extinguished. The arsonist has a criminal past and the judge pointed out that the combination of alcohol abuse and his quick temper have often run Mr. Rolfe afoul of the law. When imposing the sentence, the judge commented on the seriousness of the crime of arson noting that all three floors of the apartment building were occupied when the fire was set and said "this could have been a murder case." ♦

Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Decreased in 2000

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced on August 22, 2001 firefighter deaths in the line of duty decreased last year. That number is down to 102 in 2000 from the 112 line of duty fatalities reported in 1999. The USFA, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, prepares the annual report and analysis in support of its mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies.

Even one firefighter giving his life in service to our country is too many, but I am pleased to see the trend downward has resumed," said FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh. "Through the firefighter health and safety programs developed by USFA and the National Fire Academy we hope to continue to provide tools that fire departments across our country can use to prevent these tragic losses."

According to officials at USFA, 64 volunteer and 38 career firefighters lost their lives in 2000. Emergency incidents either at the scene, or responding to or from the scene, accounted for 72 deaths. There were 30 non-emergency deaths involving training, administrative or other duties not directly associated with an emergency response. Wildland firefighting accounted for 14 of the deaths.

"Many of our firefighters are still dying as a result of stress and overexertion at emergency scenes," said Ken Burris, Acting Administrator and Chief Operating Officer for USFA. "Forty-five of the fatalities were heart attacks or strokes.

"While this number is down from last year, fire departments across the U.S. need to redouble their efforts to

prevent these tragic losses through physical fitness programs and appropriate rehabilitation and fire ground safety operations."

Since 1978 the number of firefighter line of duty deaths has declined annually, from a high of 178, with the exception of 1999, which saw a one-year upswing.

All of the reported fatalities for 2000 were submitted to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to be considered for inclusion on the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial's upcoming Oct. 7 ceremony at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.

For two decades, USFA's National Fire Data Center has kept track of firefighter fatalities and conducted an analysis of the fatalities that occur each year since 1986. Since the study began, the lowest number of deaths in one year was in 1992 when 75 deaths were recorded.

Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts towards finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used to measure the effectiveness of current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety.

The complete report and a list of all firefighter fatality studies are posted on the USFA web site at www.usfa.fema.gov. The printed report will be available in mid-September.

Editors Note: No firefighters died in fires in Massachusetts in 2000. Eight (8) firefighters died in fires in 1999 in Massachusetts. ♦

International CIS Foundation

The Department of Fire Services has supported the educational efforts and support services of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) for past several years. Several members of the MFA faculty and staff attended the ICISF Sixth World Congress in Baltimore in April.

In addition to topical addresses by Drs. George S. Everly and Jeffrey T. Mitchell, co-founders of the ICISF, there were a variety of workshops. Those presentations reviewed the lessons learned from some of the most significant crises and disasters of the last two years and included the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire, the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. Cole, the shootings at Columbine High School, the tunnel fire in the Austrian Alps, the wildfires in Los Alamos, and the Texas A & M bonfire collapse.

Hayden and Valerie Duggan and Sandy Scerra from the On-Site Academy in Gardner presented a plenary session on the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire. This was the first presentation of their speeches and video in an international venue. At the conclusion, they were given a standing ovation by an audience of 1,000 fire service, mental health, emergency services, law enforcement and academic personnel in the audience. ♦



Use of Special Effects in School Plays and Productions

As a result of a young woman being injured while handling special effects while working on a high school play production, the Office of the State Fire Marshal issued an advisory regarding the use of special effects in school productions. With schools and colleges opening, we would like to once again remind everyone about this potential hazard. In the incident where this young woman was injured, the special effects device was homemade and the flash powder used in the device was apparently ordered through the Internet. Neither the person who was injured nor the person she was working with was properly licensed to handle special effects. The devices used in this incident were extremely crude and the individuals using them clearly did not have appropriate knowledge of how to handle special effects. All of the components of the failed device were easily purchased at the hardware store, local theatrics supply shop or over the Internet.

Since this incident, it has been learned that the use of special effects in school productions may be more widespread than previously known. During an interview with a school drama department head, it was learned that pyrotechnics had been used in various school productions a number of times, however, no one was aware that there were any licensing or permitting requirements. It was suggested that a number of schools may be in exactly the same situation where there is well-intended use of these materials, but at the same time there is little knowledge of any regulatory requirements.

Because of the obvious hazards in working with homemade special effects devices by untrained and unlicensed individuals, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is again alerting you to the fact

that any type of special effect has to be conducted by properly licensed and permitted individuals. School officials, whether high school or college, should take a close look at the plans for the production. The fire department should be notified to review any type of plan for the use of special effects, regardless of how insignificant the effect may seem, to determine permitting requirements. Fire officials are asked to reach out to schools in their community to make them aware of such requirements.

Further assistance is always available through the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Feel free to call the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services at either (978) 567-3300 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Explosives and Blasting Regulatory Conference

The International Society of Explosives Engineers sponsored an Explosives and Blasting Regulatory Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Well over 100 federal and state explosives regulators from around the country attended this four day conference that ran from July 22-25. This conference is held every two years to bring regulators from around the country together to discuss a variety of issues related to the commercial explosives and blasting industry. This year Todd Harrington, Explosives Safety Manager, represented the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services at this important event. In addition, Todd delivered a presentation giving an overview of 527 CMR 13.00 during the "Survey of States Regulations" segment of the conference.

What was learned at this conference is that Massachusetts probably covers explosives regulatory issues about as good as any state does. While some other states emphasize certain things more than others, MA covers explosives issues extremely well from a "top to bottom" perspective. Some of the big surface and underground mining states have to deal with a very different set of conditions than we do, but the public safety issues remain the same across the country.

Of interest to Massachusetts, however, is how some states are addressing new and renewal licenses. Several states either already have, or are about to have education and continuing education requirements for blasting licenses. This is an issue that the Commonwealth of MA is working on currently and hopes to have in place in the next year. With new technology and techniques rapidly changing, the blaster of the future is going to require a much higher level of knowledge than in the past. One of the topics presented at this conference covered new technologies either available or being developed for the blasting industry. There is some interesting information coming along involving electronic initiation systems, monitoring and quality control equipment. As the new technologies arrive, states who license individuals to handle explosives have to keep pace with examination and education requirements to maintain that license.

Another interesting note relates to the disparity between state explosives regulations. Massachusetts has one of the most comprehensive explosives regulations in the country. 527 CMR 13.00 has a solid foundation that is based on federal regulations and accepted national standards such as NFPA 495. At the other end of the spectrum are some states that have virtually no regulations for explosives

Continued on page 10

Explosives *Continued from page 9*

handling, or only address certain segments of the explosives industry. On a national, or even regional, basis there is much that could be done to develop uniformity in explosives regulations. More than anything, the Pittsburgh conference went a long way in bringing the various jurisdictions together to "compare notes". It was disappointing that some of the least regulated states were not in attendance. Across the board though, those that did attend the conference were interested in doing the right thing with regard to explosives regulations and public safety. ♦

NESEE EXPO 2001/DEMO EXPO 2001

Fri. Oct. 19, 2001 / Sat. Oct. 20, 2001 The New England Chapter of the Society of Explosives Engineers (NESEE) is holding its annual EXPO and DEMO EXPO. This year these two events are combined into a two-day event that highlights the New England area commercial explosives industry.

On Friday, October 19, 2001 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the NESEE will hold its annual EXPO at the Holiday Inn in Marlborough, MA off Rt. 20 and Rt. 495. This event includes display booths set up by the various vendors in the regional explosives industry and a series of educational seminars that are conducted throughout the day. Additionally, there is a buffet and a fairly large raffle that benefits the NESEE Scholarship Fund.

On Saturday, October 20, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the NESEE will hold its annual DEMO EXPO at the Berlin Stone Quarry in Berlin, MA off Rt. 62 on Sawyer Rd. This is an outdoor event that highlights the various types of equipment used in the

regional commercial explosives industry.

The combined admission for the two events is \$30.00 and includes the buffet at the Friday event. Tickets can be purchased for the individual events as well.

For those in the fire service who deal with blasting projects, or who have interest in the commercial explosives industry, this is a very good opportunity to learn more about what is new. This combined event provides the chance to not only get a look at the various products, equipment and new technology used in the industry, but also to attend some informative seminars related to the use and handling of explosives. The Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and the Office of the State Fire Marshal routinely participate in these events by providing information about the regulations and speaking at the seminars on regulatory topics. There are a variety of topics scheduled for presentation this year that include vibration, legal, safety and new technology. ♦

Sprinkler Recalls

continued from page 1

complete confidence in sprinklers" said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan.

This is a joint recall of select Central Sprinkler, Star Sprinkler, Inc. and Gem Sprinkler Company heads and poses a very serious life safety risk. The sprinkler heads were installed nationwide in a wide variety of buildings, including houses, apartments, hospitals, day care facilities, schools, dormitories, nursing homes, supermarkets, parking garages, warehouses, and office buildings.

Central initiated this action because it discovered the performance of these O-ring sprinklers can degrade over time. These sprinkler heads can corrode, or minerals, salts and other contaminants in water can affect the rubber O-ring seals. These factors could cause the sprinkler heads not to activate in a fire.

Central is providing new fire sprinklers that do not use O-ring seals, and is voluntarily launching this program to provide enhanced protection to its sprinkler customers.

This is the third largest replacement program in CPSC history and occurs not long after the smaller recall of Omega sprinkler heads.

Additional information can be obtained at our website www.state.ma.us/dfs or by calling our Central Sprinkler Recall Hotline at 1-800-532-8499 or at CPSC website at www.CPSC.gov.

A recall package can be obtained by contacting Central Sprinkler for a new package. It will be marked with a specific identification number for easier tracking of the claim. To order the package call 1-800-532-8499 or download it from the Central web site: www.sprinklerreplacement.com.

Note: All localities with state owned facilities will be handled by the Department of Public Safety. ♦

New Sprinkler Markings

From the *Regional Report* published by the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

The 1999 edition of NFPA 13 contains an effective date of January 1, 2001, for implementation of a sprinkler model identification scheme by which all sprinklers must be marked with an alphabetic code identifying the manufacturer and three or four numbers identifying each variation of orifice size or shape, deflector distribution, thermal sensitivity and pressure rating. Both UL and FM have provided opinions that while the new marking systems must be applied to all sprinklers manufactured after the effective date, it will not apply to listed sprinklers manufactured prior to the effective date. These sprinklers can be maintained in inventory and sold and installed at a later date without any violation of their listing. These opinions are available on the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org. ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC



June 19, 2001- Release # 01-166

Recall of Remote Controlled Toy Race Cars

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Equity Marketing Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 4,300 Remote Controlled Race Cars. The remote controlled race cars are black with the number 28 printed in red on the doors and roof and the Texaco logo printed on the hood of the car. The cars are about 8-inches long by 3-inches wide and 2-inches high. A black cordless remote control is sold with the cars and reads in part "FORWARD," and "REVERSE" in yellow print. Participating Texaco gas stations nationwide sold the cars under the "Need for Speed" promotion from May 2001 through June 1, 2001 for about \$12 with any \$10 purchase.

Problems with the circuits are rendering some of the remote controlled race cars inoperable. These cars can over-heat and emit smoke and may pose a potential burn hazard. Equity Marketing Inc. has received three reports of the toy cars emitting smoke. No injuries have been reported.

Galileo Weather Thermometers Recalled Due to Mansfield Fire

A March 19, 2001 fire in Mansfield, Massachusetts was attributed to a Galileo Weather Thermometer. Mansfield fire prevention officers worked with Department of Fire Services code compliance officers to determine the role this thermometer played in the fire's spread. They were able to document the case and bring it to the attention of the local CPSC investigator.

Nantucket Distributing Co. Inc., of South Yarmouth, Mass., is voluntarily recalling about 28,000 Galileo thermometers. The thermometers are made of glass. They are cylinder-shaped measuring about 17-inches high. Inside the cylinder are floating small glass spheres filled with various colors of liquid. Attached to each sphere is a metal disk with different temperatures embossed on both sides. The spheres float up and down within the cylinder to identify a temperature based on their position within the cylinder. A small gold sticker that says "Made in China" is on the bottom of the cylinder. The Christmas Tree Shops Inc. in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hamp-

shire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Albany, New York sold these thermometers from June 2000 through December 2000 for \$12.99. The thermometers contain a liquid that is flammable and a hazardous substance that could be harmful or fatal if swallowed.

CPSC and Nantucket Distributing Co. Inc. have received five reports of thermometers breaking resulting in two injuries. A man suffered burns to his hands when the thermometer broke near a stove and ignited his clothing. Another man suffered smoke inhalation when extinguishing a fire caused by candles igniting a broken thermometer.

WHAT TO DO: Consumers should stop using these thermometers immediately and return them to the Christmas Tree Shops Inc. where purchased for a refund. For more information, consumers should call Christmas Tree Shops Inc. at (800) 876-9677 anytime, or visit the firm's web site at www.christmastreeshops.com.

June 26, 2001 - Release # 01-178

5 Firms Announce Recall of Backpack Blowers

Five firms are recalling about 50,500 backpack blowers. The fuel tanks on these blowers can leak, posing a fire hazard and risk of burn injuries to consumers.

The following firms are conducting





this recall: Husqvarna Forest & Garden Co., of Charlotte, N.C.; John Deere Consumer Products Inc., of Moline, Ill.; Makita U.S.A. Inc., of La Mirada, Calif.; Carswell Import & Marketing Associates Inc., of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Tilton Equipment Co., of Rye, N.H.

Carswell has received 159 reports of leaking fuel tanks on these blowers. Makita U.S.A has received 55 reports of leaks. John Deere has received five reports of leaks. No injuries have been reported. The other firms have not had reports of leaks.

The recalled blowers all have their brand name, model number and serial number written on the units. Consumers should check with the manufacturer to determine if their blower is part of the recall. Consumers should have their serial number available when they contact the firm.

Manufacturer Model Number Dates Sold Toll-Free Number/Web Site

Husqvarna Forest & Garden Co.155BT and 155BF. Sold from June

1998 through June 2001.

(800) 438-7297 or
www.husqvarna.com

John Deere Consumer Products Inc.UT 26113, UT08093 and UT08104.

Sold from January 1998 through April 2001.

(800) 537-8233 or
www.johndeere.com

Makita U.S.A. Inc.RBL500. Sold from March 1997 through January 2001.

(800) 625-4828 or
www.makitaope.com

Carswell Import & Marketing Associates Inc.FL500. Sold from December 1996 through June 2001.

(800) 929-1948 or
www.carswelldist.com

Tilton Equipment Co.TB50. Sold from August 2000 through May 2001

(800) 447-1152 or
www.tiltonequipment.com

July 2, 2001 - Release # 01-180

CPSC, Hallmark Creations Announce Recall of Tea Light Lamps

Hallmark Specialty Retail Marketing Group Inc., of Kansas City, Mo., operating under the name Hallmark Creations, is voluntarily recalling about 1,300 metal and plastic tea light lamps. The plastic shade that covers the tea light candle can melt, posing a fire hazard.

Hallmark has received three reports of the lampshade melting. No injuries have been reported.

The lamp has a clear plastic lampshade that covers a base for holding candles. A dark brown curved S-shaped support wire that is decorated with leaves supports the lampshade. The recalled lamp is about 12-inches tall and 4-inches in diameter. The labels on the bottom of the base read "Creations" and "MADE IN TAIWAN."

Hallmark Creations stores nationwide sold these lamps from January 2001 through May 2001 for about \$12.



July 6, 2001 CPSC - Release # 01-188

Apple Announces Recall of AC Adapter for Prior Generation PowerBook Laptops

Apple of Cupertino, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 570,000 AC adapters worldwide that were sold with prior generation PowerBook G3s. These AC adapters could overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Apple received six reports of these adapters overheating. No injuries have been reported.

No Titanium PowerBook G4 or iBook power adapters are part of this recall. The recall includes only AC adapters with a two-pin connector that came with Apple Macintosh PowerBooks or that were sold separately. The small rectangular black AC adapter box has a permanently attached cord on one end that connects to the computer and a detachable two-prong cord on the other end to plug into an AC outlet. It is approximately 4.75 inches long by 2



inches wide. The label located on the side of the adapter reads in part, "Macintosh PowerBook 45W AC Adapter" and "Model Number: M4402." Electronic and computer stores worldwide and Apple's web site sold these AC adapters with PowerBook G3s from May 1998 through March 2000. They also were sold separately for about \$69.

July 11, 2001 - Release # 01-187

Atico International USA Inc Recalls Percolators

Atico International USA Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is voluntarily recalling about 198,000 electric percolators. If the thermostat fails, the plastic housing of the percolator can overheat and melt while in use, posing a fire hazard.

Atico has received six reports of fires as a result of overheating with these percolators resulting in minor property damage to kitchen counters and cabinets. There have been two reports of minor burns to the hand.

The recall includes Atico's Kitchen Gourmet Automatic 10 Cup Percolator and Prinetti Electric 10-Cup Percolator. The white plastic percolators have gray bases. The Kitchen Gourmet Automatic 10-Cup Percolator is decorated with three red flowers on the front. The Prinetti Electric 10-Cup Percolator is plain white with "Prinetti" written on the front. Drug and discount stores nationwide sold these percolators from January 1996 through January 2001 for about \$10.



July 11, 2001 - Release # 01-195

Krups Recalls Coffeemakers

Krups North America, of Closter, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 218,000 automatic drip coffeemakers. An electrical connection in these coffeemakers can overheat and ignite the filter basket support, presenting a risk of fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Krups has received 37 reports of the coffeemakers overheating, including 12 reports of fire and smoke damage to cabinets, countertops and surrounding objects. No injuries have been reported.

The automatic drip coffeemakers were sold under the Krups brand name. The 10 cup coffeemakers have a switch for selecting 1-3 cups or 4- 10 cups, and a "Stop N' Serve" feature. Only models 398 with a black or white exterior and 405 with a simulated wood-grain exterior are included in this recall. The model numbers are on the bottom of the coffeemaker. Department, appliance and specialty stores nationwide sold the coffeemakers from January 1996 through April 2000 for about \$95.

Consumers should unplug and stop using the coffeemakers immediately and contact Krups North America at (800) 810-8687 anytime to receive a free replacement coffeemaker.



July 13, 2001 - Release # 01-198

Kenyon International Recalls Portable Butane Stoves

Kenyon International Inc. of Clinton, Conn., is voluntarily recalling about 3,500 portable butane gas stoves. The unit's safety fuel shut-off system could fail to shut off when the fuel container is overheated. If overheated, the flame from the stove flares up, and cannot be controlled with the adjustment valve, posing a fire hazard.

The CPSC and Kenyon International Inc. have received one report of the fuel shut-off system failing resulting in two consumers suffering second-degree burns.

The portable butane stoves are primarily marketed to the boating industry as optional equipment and are identified as being "EXPRESS" models with model number B23000 or B23001. The model number is found on the front of the stove near the adjustment valve. The metal stoves consist of a single burner unit having a removable butane fuel canister, regulator, primary nozzle and burner. The unit has an electronic ignition, and measures about 7-inches high by 10-inches wide by 12-inches long. The B2300 unit is black, and the B23001 unit is white. The portable stoves are labeled "Made in



Korea" and "KENYON EXPRESS."

Boat manufacturers were supplied with these units and sporting goods stores and marine supply stores sold the portable butane stoves separately nationwide from March 2000 through April 2001 for about \$70.

July 27, 2001 - Release # 01-208

Milwaukee Electric Tool Recalls Electric Wrenches

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp., of Brookfield, Wis., is voluntarily recalling about 6,000 electric wrenches. The wrenches have power cords that can release from the handle, posing an injury or electrocution hazard to consumers.

Milwaukee and CPSC have not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The recalled impact wrenches are shaped like drills, but use a forward/reverse (impact) action to tighten/loosen bolts. The wrenches have a red handle, a red and gray body, and the name "Milwaukee" printed on the drill. The model and serial numbers included in this recall can be found on the nameplate located on the body of the tool.

Model Numbers Serial Numbers

9070-20229A401010001 through 229A401250722

9071-20239A401010001 through 239A401250404

9075-20230A401010001 through 230A401260104

Home centers, hardware stores, and

industrial distributors nationwide sold these wrenches from March 2001 to July 2001 for between \$180 and \$280. Wrenches that have a "X" stamped or etched on the nameplate next to the serial number have already been repaired. ♦

CPSC Joins Candle Fire Safety Effort

Latest data show record number of fatalities from candle fires

A new report shows that while deaths from residential fires have been nearly cut in half from 4,500 in 1980 to 2,660 in 1998, those caused by candles have increased dramatically. Candle deaths increased 750 percent from 1980 (20 deaths) to 1998 (170 deaths). In most cases, candles caused house fires when they were left unattended, tipped over, and ignited nearby combustibles. Almost half of home candle fires start in the bedroom. Mattresses or bedding are the most common items that ignite, followed by furniture (dressers, desks, and tables) and then curtains. Tealights and tapers are common culprits in candle fires.

A child playing with the candle itself or near the candle is one of the biggest contributors to candle fires. Faced with fire, many children hide in a closet or under a bed leading to tragic fatalities. In fact, children under age 5 have a fire death rate more than twice the national average.

"Candles are no longer used for the occasional dinner party. In fact, only a small percent of candle fires start in dining rooms," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Candle sales are booming and families are lighting candles in their living rooms, family rooms, dens and bathrooms. Fires from candles have increased dramatically, but they are preventable. Reduce the chance of a fire, by following CPSC's simple safety tips."

- Keep matches, lighters and candles away from children.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Keep combustible materials away from candles.
- Don't put candles in a location where children or pets could knock them down.
- Use only non-flammable candleholders.
- Always trim the wicks before lighting.

The new report shows that house fires have been dropped from 655,000 in 1980 to 332,300 in 1998, the latest year for which data is available. In contrast, house fires caused by candles have increased, from 8,500 in 1980 to 12,900 in 1998. ♦

Campus Fire Safety Conference

The Department of Fire Services sponsored a day-long conference attended by over 100 members of local fire departments, and college and university administrators who are responsible for fire safety. It was held on Wednesday, August, 8, 2001 at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester.

Presenters included:
Keith Hoyle, Amherst Fire Chief; Michael J. Swain, Fire Prevention Officer, U/Mass Amherst; Bill Middlemiss, Code Compliance Officer in OSFM; Steven Sawyer, Sr. Fire Service Specialist, NFPA; Michael

Lucey, PE Facilities Engineer, U/Mass Amherst; Ed Comeau, former Chief Fire Investigator, NFPA and publisher of the Campus Firewatch Newsletter; and David Beaudin, Compliance Officer, OSFM.



The day concluded with a lively roundtable discussion.

In his welcoming remarks, State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The closer we in the fire service work with school, college and university officials, the safer learning experience we can provide to the young adults on our boarding school, college and university campuses."

Smoke Free New England

A new initiative sponsored by the American Cancer Society's New England Division has begun an intensive community mobilization effort to reduce tobacco use called *Smoke-Free New England*. One part of this initiative is *Smoke-Free New England College and Universities*. They are organizing local college students to push for smoke-free dormitories and smoke-free campuses. They have identified both the health risks and the fire risks that use of tobacco products pose on college campuses. The group had a table at the DFS sponsored Campus Fire Safety Conference. This is natural extension of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program that includes teaching school children about fire safety and particularly the fire risk that tobacco products pose (smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires.) As our young adults leave home and enter the world of college and university life, we want them to be

cognizant of the risk of fire in their new environment and what they can do to reduce those risks.

Smoke-Free New England College and Universities is a natural partner for the fire service. For more information

contact the American Cancer Society at (800)-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org. ♦

Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, room 502. The same exams are given on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

Type of License Exam Dates

Cannon/mortars, special effects and fireworks	Sept. 12, 2001
	Dec. 12, 2001
	Mar. 13, 2002
	June 13, 2002
	Sept. 13, 2002
Fire Extinguishers	Oct. 11, 2001
	Jan. 29, 2002
	Apr. 3, 2002
	Jul. 10, 2002
Check in March or April for October 2002 exam data	
Blasting	Oct. 4, 2002
	Jan. 3, 2002
	Apr. 9, 2002
	Jul. 11, 2002

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. u

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

2001: A S.A.F.E. Odyssey – 7th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

2001: A S.A.F.E. Odyssey is the theme for 7th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference which will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2001 and Friday, September 28, 2001. The conference will be held at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center 219 Littleton Road, Westford, Massachusetts. Call (978) 567-3380 for registration information or e-mail Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us with the word: conference in the subject line or download the conference [registration flyer](http://www.state.ma.us/dfs/lifesafe/conference.htm) from our webpage <http://www.state.ma.us/dfs/lifesafe/conference.htm>.

2-Day Conference Life Safety Educators From Many Disciplines

This annual conference is attended by over 200 firefighters, classroom teachers, nurses, elder service workers, TRIAD volunteers, and injury prevention professionals from around the state and New England. Participants will attend two days of workshops on

topics such as advanced presentation skills; designing, implementing and evaluating programs; forming successful community partnerships; a new approach to classroom lessons – constructivism; senior fire safety; babysitting programs; teaching pre-school and high school age children; reaching refugees and immigrants; education reform and the health curriculum frameworks; tobacco and fire safety education, educating juvenile firesetters; PowerPoint; inhalants; child development; team teaching; and residential sprinklers.

Many of the speakers and presenters are people who regularly work with the fire service on burn, fire and injury prevention education:

Chief Dennis Compton, Mesa, AZ to Deliver Keynote Address

Mesa, Arizona Fire Chief Dennis Compton will deliver the keynote address at 1 p.m. on Friday, September 28, 2001. Before Mesa, he previously served as Assistant Fire Chief in Phoenix Fire Department. During a career that spans 30 years, Chief Compton has been involved in many fire service and civic organizations.

Dennis is a well-known speaker and the author of a series of books entitled *When In Doubt, Lead*, as well as many other publications. He is the immediate past chair of the Executive board of the International Fire Service Training Committee, and serves on the Board of the national Fire Protection Association. Chief



Compton is a charter member of the Arizona Fire Service hall of fame.

7th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educator Award

On September 27, 2001 at 1:15 p.m., the 2001 Fire and Safety Educator of the Year Award will be given and nominees recognized. This award honors people who have exhibited excellence in teaching their community about fire and life safety and have demonstrated leadership in the field.

Past winners are: 2000 – Prudence Bliss, No. Attleboro Public Schools; 1999-Capt Lawrence Gorman, Brockton Fire Department; 1998 – Teri Charpentier, American Red Cross, Central Chapter; 1997 Lt. William Pietrantonio, Everett Fire Department; 1997- Lt. Eric Hubler, Hyannis Fire Department; 1996 Lt. Michael Sullivan, Wakefield Fire Department; 1995 – Lt. Andrew Melnikas, No. Andover Fire Department. ♦

**2001
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6th Annual Brian T. Broderick Family Fire Safety Day

The Metropolitan District Commission and the Department of Fire Services will sponsor the sixth annual Brian T. Broderick Family Fire Safety Day on Saturday, September 15, 2001 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This special event will be held at Houghton's Pond in the MDC's Blue Hills Reservation in Milton, Massachusetts.

Family Fire Safety Day is a fun and educational family event designed to promote fire awareness through safety activities, displays, children's games, helicopter and fire engine demonstrations and tours. Antique and new fire engines will be on display at the event. Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog® will be on hand to add to the festivities. Light fare and snacks will be on sale at the concession stand. The event is free to all. Bring the whole family and enjoy early fall at scenic Houghton's Pond at Family Fire Safety Day.

For more information please contact Maggi Brown at the MDC at (617) 727-4573 or Michael Young at the Department of Fire Services at (978) 567-3388. ♦

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community. It can be found on-line at www.state.ma.us/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm.

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

Can Your Propane Tank Be Refilled?

Continued from page 5

A cigarette or match or barbecue lighter could cause a disaster"

How to Tell If Your Tank Already Has Overfill Protection

The easiest way for a consumer to determine if their tank has the device is by looking at the type of handle on the shut off valve. A handle shaped like a triangle means the tank meets the new requirements; the older, round-shaped handle means it does not. All tanks have the date of manufacture stamped on them, so looking for this date will also help determine whether or not the tank needs to be replaced before being refilled. Tanks manufactured since 1998 already have these devices installed.

Proper Disposal of Old Tanks

It is important to dispose of these tanks properly so that they do not pose a fire, explosion or environmental hazard. There are propane companies that will take the out-of-date cylinders for a small fee.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection offers the following tips for safe handling and disposal of these tanks.

- Tanks containing fuel under pressure may explode if tank integrity is altered, causing severe injury or death.
- Tanks containing compressed gas may explode in waste-to-energy facilities.
- Do not attempt to remove valve from tank. Special safety equipment is required to prevent explosion.
- Tanks in good condition with old fittings may be reused with an adapter purchased at most propane gas dealers.
- Use up all residual gas, for non-

refillable (disposable) tanks

- Do not leave valve open, because escaping gas is a fire hazard.
- Do not dispose of tanks containing gas in the trash.
- Check Yellow Page listings under Gas - Propane for a company who will take tank for reuse.
- Scrap metal yards may take empty tanks. Call the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection at (617) 236-7715 for a copy of their Recycling Services Directory or look in the local phone directory.
- Very small, empty disposable tanks (1-liter) can be disposed of in the trash.
- Save tanks for local household hazardous waste collection days, if tanks are accepted in your program.



Be Part of the Solution!

NFPA Codes and Standards Making System

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has established four regional fire code development committees. The members of these committees are from the fire service in each area and they are responsible for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and to act as liaisons to their region's fire service. There is no cost to attend the meeting; you are responsible for your own travel expenses. If you are interested in attending the northeast meeting, contact Steven Sawyer, Sr. NFPA, Fire Service Specialist, at (617) 984-7423.

Northeastern Regional Meeting

September 13-14, 2001, Crowne Plaza at the Crossing, Warwick, RI, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ♦

MFIRS CORNER

Switch to v5 Must be Completed by Year's End - 12/31/2001

Massachusetts has implemented version 5 of the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been receiving version 5 data from fire departments since the beginning of this year.

The calendar year 2001 is an implementation year. Fire departments have been permitted to submit version 4.1 data until they can successfully transition to version 5. If you have chosen to delay implementation in order to complete training or to acquire software, you are encouraged to make the

change as quickly as possible so that we can have the highest quality data possible. Converted data will not be as valuable.

Please remember that every fire department must make the transition by December 31, 2001. MFIRS version 4.1 reports (paper & electronic) will not be accepted after this date.

Attached is a current list of all software vendors that have had their version 5 software packages tested and approved by this Office. This list is posted on

our webpage and published in the DFS Quarterly. If you do not find your vendor on this approved list, please have them contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit. They will work with them in the procedure of acquiring Massachusetts' approval. The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System version 5 has some unique to Massachusetts elements that are not found in the national system. You should keep this in mind when contracting with a software vendor. ♦

V5 Software Vendors

The Fire Data Unit will work with any vendor that a fire department selects to ensure the ability to successfully submit MFIRS data electronically. For status of vendor certification by the U.S. Fire Administration please check their website at www.fema.gov.

The following is a list of incident reporting software vendors known by the Fire Data Unit to have Massachusetts fire department customers and the status of their submission of test fires for electronic MFIRS V5 reporting. So far, nine (9) software vendors have received approval for electronic submission of MFIRS version 5 data. Several more are in the middle of the process. One of the things a fire department should consider is whether or not a software vendor has received certification from the U.S. Fire Administration. The USFA conducts a much more thorough test of the software than we do. A vendor who participates in the USFA certification process also agrees to stay current with any changes the USFA makes. At the moment, the U.S. Fire Administration is making changes every January and every July. ♦

V5 VENDOR	Mass Approved?	USFA Certified?
FirePoint	✓	✓
Firehouse	✓	✓
Vernon	✓	✓
Pamet	✓	
DM Data	✓	✓
KeyinfoSys	✓	
FirePrograms	✓	✓
QED	✓	✓
IMC	✓	
Alpine Software	✓	✓

Census Tracts

In the Basic Module of MFIRS v5, there is a field titled Census Tract. It may be found under section B, Location. This is a four digit numerical code which may also have two digits after the decimal point which assigned to geographical regions by the U.S. Census Bureau. If your department needs information in order to complete this field and you have web access then you may go to this website to find the correct tract, <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>. Once at this site choose Thematic Maps. The default

map is Alabama. Go to Change Selections, choose Geography. At the new screen you will be prompted by: Select the State, choose the state that you need the required information from. Click on Show Map. Once the state map is shown, using the drop down box by the state's name, choose Census Tract. Then using the Zoom (it allows you to go all the way to neighborhood/street level) function to the left of the map, you may find the desired value superimposed on the map. ♦

MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 2000

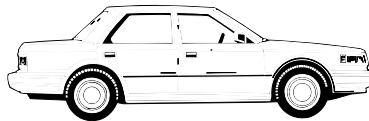
24,931 Fires - Down 14% From 1999

78 Civilian Deaths
619 Civilian Injuries
0 Fire Service Deaths
837 Fire Service Injuries
\$189 Million in Property Damage
3,360 Reported Arsons



Structure Fires

10,279 Fires - Down 3%
62 Civilian Deaths
523 Civilian Injuries
0 Fire Service Deaths
760 Fire Service Injuries
\$155 Million in Property Damage
747 Arsons Reported



Motor Vehicle Fires

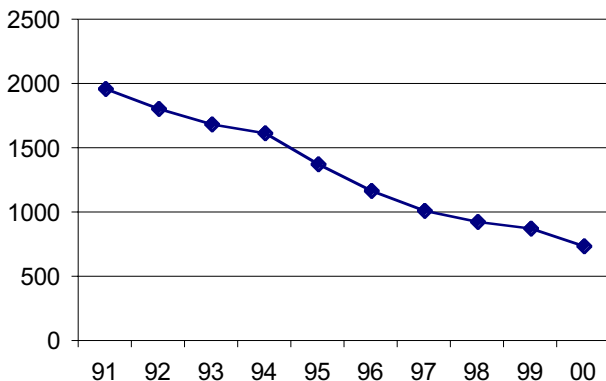
5,473 Fires - Up 8%
13 Civilian Deaths
34 Civilian Injuries
33 Fire Service Injuries
\$20 Million in Property Damage
798 Arsons Reported



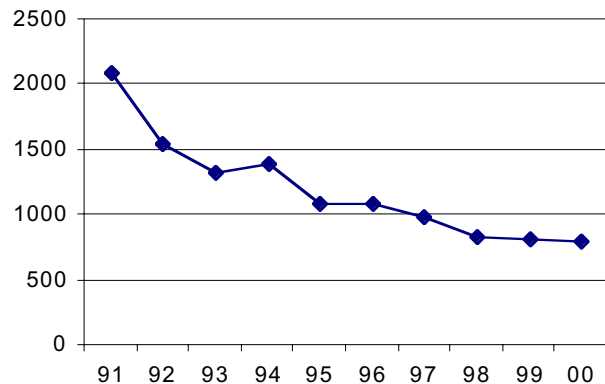
Other Fires

9,179 Fires - Down 28%
3 Civilian Deaths
62 Civilian Injuries
0 Fire Service Death
44 Fire Service Injuries
\$13 Million in Property Damage
1,815 Arsons Reported

Structure Arson by Year



Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



Structure arson fell 16% and motor vehicle arson fell 9% from 1999 to 2000. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 85%. Since the Burned Motor Vehicle Reporting Law took effect in 1987, owners of burned vehicles must personally file a report at the fire station before they can collect on their fire insurance. Vehicle arson began dropping at that time.

For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the ignition factor is listed as incendiary or suspicious.

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